

PROJECTED WORKS, &c.—Tenders have been called for by advertisement for the erection of new schools and schoolhouses at Wivenhoe; new borough prisons at Plymouth; the various branches of work necessary in the erection of almshouses for the Trinity House, Hull; for sinking shafts and driving headings at Merthyr Tunnel, on the Vale of Neath railway, and for cuttings and earthwork at same tunnel, with formation of line of rail with masonry thereon on 40 chains at each end; also for making 160 yards of sewer at new parish burial-ground, Cambridge; for a supply of malleable iron, four to five tons, for the Liverpool Health Committee; and for the making of tiles at Dearham tile works, Maryport, by Carlisle.

AMENDMENT OF THE BUILDINGS ACT.—The private committee appointed by Lord Morpeth to consider the defects of the present Act, and to suggest remedies, are now completing their report, and, if rumour speaks truly, will advise (what we have always urged must be done), the preparation of an entirely new Act, rather than any patching of the old one. Whether or not the Government will act upon this advice, of course remains to be seen.

GIRDER BRIDGES ON RAILWAYS.—We understand that the Railway Commissioners, in reply to the inquiries of Sir E. Walker and Sir J. Jervis, as to whether, consequent on the late accident at the Dee Bridge, on the Chester and Holyhead, they intended to make any report on the conditions to be observed in the application of iron to railway structures, have replied that, "The commissioners for inquiry into the conditions to be observed in the application of iron to railway structures, are engaged in preparing experiments to enable them to arrive at satisfactory conclusions on the subject of their inquiry, before making their report. With respect to the girder bridges on the Trent Valley line, some of them are of similar construction, but of smaller dimensions than the Dee Bridge at Chester, and these have all been strengthened to the satisfaction of the inspecting officers of the commissioners." (Signed) **DUGLAS GALTIN, Lieut. R.E.**

ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL, SYDNEY.—Sir: In glancing at your last number but one, my eye was arrested by a notice of a paper read before a society on the progress of the building of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney. Not having had an opportunity of visiting the metropolis of New South Wales for three years, I was anxious to learn how the works of the cathedral were proceeding, and was sorry to read of a second contract "in a girt wall 330 feet long, and varying from ten to fifteen feet in height,—an amount of work which, when completed, will present an effective appearance." Verily the citizens of Sydney must be easily pleased if the walls at ten or fifteen feet above the foundations are likely to produce a sensation! But this report does not at all coincide with my remembrance of the edifice, which certainly three years since had the choir walls carried up to their full height, the "low lantern tower" at an equal elevation, while other portions of the building were of considerable altitude. The slender scaffolds that in skeleton then environed the works, looked very weatherworn; and I was told that the building had been eight years in hand, and at a standstill for a considerable time. The architect, I was informed on good authority, was Mr. Hume, of Sydney, the designer of a Jews' Synagogue, then just completed in the Egyptian style, near the cathedral, also of a temporary edifice of weather-boarding the cathedral *pro tempore*. Judging from the hopeless state in which two other Gothic churches in Sydney were standing roofless, albeit one of them was located in a freestone quarry, and collections were making at three Sunday services in all the churches in their behalf, I should fear that the cathedral will not be completed in our time, and that, perhaps, it had been better to have adhered to the design originally obtained from England, a showy lithograph of which, embellished by a grove of trees of very improbable future existence, figured in the print shops of George-street. I name these circumstances because I believe you willingly receive correct information concerning any buildings in any part of the world, even though communicated by

A VOICE FROM AUSTRALIA.

THE OPENING OF THE IPSWICH MUSEUM took place on Wednesday week, the Bishop of Norwich in the chair. Mr. G. Ransome, one of the secretaries, having read the report, in which it was stated that the prospects of the institution were such that the purchase of the present building, at a period not far distant, might be anticipated; the bishop then moved the adoption of the report. He believed even a little knowledge to be valuable, and the very objection of some to giving it to the lower classes, namely, that it would enable them to tread on the heels of the higher, was its strongest recommendation to him, for he believed that many of them required such a spur to onward progress. The knowledge of man at the utmost in any one age, is but a little, but that little was the germ that sprang up into more and more in master minds. The law of universal gravitation sprung from an apple as it fell to the ground; lithography, from the wringing of a washing bill; mezzotint from the cleaning of a gun-barrel; the pendulum from the swinging of a lamp;—a thousand instances of the rise of what was comparatively much knowledge out of a little, might be adduced. His lordship hoped the ladies present—those who were mothers of a young race of men—would influence their children's minds, as no others had the means and opportunity of doing with such powerful effect. Remember all, that education is the business of life, and life the education for eternity. Dr. Buckland and Sir John Boileau then addressed the meeting, and were followed with a brief address by the Rev. Mr. Kirby, whose age and frailty were painfully manifest to the sympathy of the meeting, but who, as the right rev. chairman observed, had spoken to their hearts with more than words. Mr. Ransome and others also addressed the meeting, and votes of thanks were given to the bishop, as chairman, and to Mr. Kirby, as president.

FIRES IN LONDON DURING 1847.—On Saturday the official returns kept by the Fire Brigade of the fires that occur in the metropolis were made up, exhibiting a frightful catalogue of conflagrations—no fewer than 999 having taken place during the past year. If the Government were to impose a tax on constructions not fire-proof equal to half the cost of these fires,—which is a self-imposed tax,—the outcry would be great.

THE TELEGRAPH IN AMERICA.—The *Pittsburgh Chronicle* gives a striking instance of the use of the electric telegraph on the other side of the Atlantic, and of enterprise on the part of a publisher. A speech by Mr. Clay was much looked for. It was delivered in Lexington on Saturday, and the proprietor of the *New York Herald* determined on heading his contemporaries. Express riders were ready, and in less than five hours his report of the speech (a full one) was in Cincinnati. Notifications had been sent along the line of telegraph to "look out," and at four o'clock on Sunday morning the publisher of the *Herald* had the satisfaction of receiving in New York a copy of the speech,—the distance being more than 1,100 miles! This was done during a heavy rain, and while a thunder-shower was passing over a portion of both the eastern and western lines. At Cincinnati, where it was to be copied in passing, the telegraph suddenly ceased working, to the dismay of the superintendent. Being short of proper hands, the superintendent mounted a horse and followed the line, through the pelting storm, until he found a break, caused by the falling of a tree, beyond Turtle Creek, a distance of twenty-one miles. He finished mending it at dark, and then returned to the city, and in the temporary absence of other competent operators, received the speech and sent it to New York, finishing it at four o'clock in the morning. Ah! these little "clicks" of the telegraph,—

"Though they breathe not a word,
Their voices are heard
At a distance no voice could reach;
And swiftly as thought
The words are brought,
And the lightning endowed with speech!
Though seas roll between,
And lands intervene,
The absent are close at hand;
The eye seems to hear,
And space disappears,
And time is compelled to stand."

BUILDERS' BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.—On Monday last the managing committee of this Institution met to balance the half-yearly account, when they had the pleasure of finding the balance exceed their expectations, remembering that the great pressure of the times must affect the affairs of the class of persons more especially connected with the building interest. The committee, notwithstanding they have only commenced operations during a short period of six months, have invested a considerable sum in the Government securities, and have also a considerable sum yet remaining in the hands of the bankers. It is to be hoped that the various classes in the building trades (as the Institute combines and relieves almost all connected with building) will give their united assistance in carrying out its laudable and philanthropic object, it being necessary to raise a sufficient sum to invest, in order to realize an income sufficient to enable the committee to grant and continue relief.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC.—The opening of the central station in the city took place on Saturday last, when the communication was opened to the public to all parts of England, Devonshire and Wales excepted, and to Scotland, but more especially to Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle, Leeds, Southampton, Norwich, Yarmouth, and various other parts. The price charged appeared to give considerable dissatisfaction, 5s. being the amount demanded for sending a message to Liverpool containing about the same number of words as there is in this paragraph, and telegraphed in about ten minutes. The company's patent expires in four years.

MALTESE ANTIQUITIES.—The latest Maltese journals make further mention of the ancient chambers recently discovered near Civita Vecchia, which Dr. Vassallo, the Government librarian, considers, from the squareness of the forms, to be an excavated Egyptian temple of the time of Psammeticus, about seven centuries B.C.

MILTON CHURCH, NEAR GRAVESEND.—Sir: A paragraph, in a late number of your periodical, stated that a walk for the church-key was often well repaid. You are quite right. So, a church, partially hidden by a wall, is well worth a walk to the gate, and round the edifice, as it will frequently disclose to the eye of the attentive observer some interesting, but unpretending relic of antiquity, well deserving of notice. Such, for instance, is the entrance to the church at Milton cum Gravesend. Much skill is shown in the arrangement of the mouldings, whereby considerable effect is produced. The style is that of the early part of the fourteenth century. The ground seems to have been raised two or three feet from its original level. The porch appears to be used as a vestry: its original roof has been replaced by one scarcely large enough to cover the walls, the embattlements of which have been almost destroyed. The gable presents a grotesque effect, having been entirely covered by a sun-dial, in the Grecian style (if any), a tablet beneath, with the churchwardens' names, and three panels, in the Gothic style, one above and one on each side of the tablet: the whole is painted white. If, instead of these useless and unsightly panels, an additional row of tiles had been placed along the sides, it would have preserved the walls from decay. The roof of the church is in the contrary extreme, and resembles that of St. Paul's, Covent-garden. An Italian roof, projecting two or three feet over the walls, and supported on brackets, forms an absurd contrast with the rest of the building, which is a plain oblong, in the Decorated style, with a western tower. There are four windows on each side: the third, on each side, from the west end, and also the east window, being in the perpendicular, and the rest in the decorated style: the latter are much dilapidated. This church affords one of those lamentable instances, which so frequently occur, of the want of knowledge on the part of those to whom the direction of the repairs of ecclesiastical edifices is usually intrusted. It is to be hoped that the notices which from time to time appear in your columns, will eventually lead them to apply for professional advice on future occasions. The porch is built in alternate courses of flint and white stone, with a benetura on the east side of the door.—J. W.